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Republican Valley Library
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We reserve the right to
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The Road to Accreditation

The 2013 season for Public Library Accreditation is nearly over. The most challenging change in the guidelines is that, in order to be accredited, each library must have a strategic plan in place. Many smaller libraries have never been through the process of strategic planning, and this change caused a great deal of concern and even some anxiety. Here are some things to consider:

Planning is an opportunity...

- to rethink and reorganize
- to solve community problems
- to showcase the library
- to align the library with local government objectives (remain relevant to your community)

Planning needs...

- Library Board support.
- Group interaction... this cannot be a solo performance by the Library Director.
- To be based on community needs and wants...be sure to ask them, sometimes our communities surprise us.
- To have expeditious execution...don't take too long or people think you never *do* anything.

During this first year using the new guidelines, we tried to make the planning process as painless as possible. The Regional System Directors and Library Commission Staff prepared worksheets, how-to guides, and an explanatory video to provide assistance for the libraries that needed to develop plans quickly. For the most part, our efforts were successful. Based on the strategic plans that were submitted to the Commission for approval, we discovered that one important aspect of planning was not emphasized enough in our training materials.

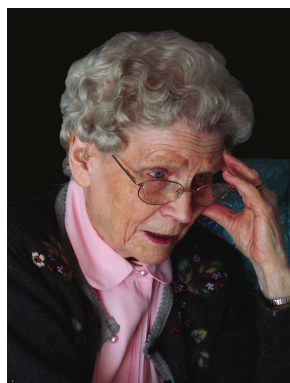
The "strategy" part of the strategic plan involves looking at all the information gathered during the planning process—the community profile, the assessment of community needs, the analysis of library strengths and weaknesses, and the library's mission statement. As planners it is imperative for us to *first look at what the community needs, and then determine which of those needs the library is uniquely qualified to fill.*

Libraries that are due to be accredited in 2014 should be working on their strategic planning process now. Richard Miller will conduct a **Planning Workshop** at the **Hastings Public Library** on Tuesday, **January 14, 2014**, from **1:00 – 4:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome. This is a terrific opportunity for Board members to get valuable information and Continuing Education credits, too. Please call or email the RVLS Office if you plan to attend.



Save the Date
March 17, 2014
Summer Reading Workshop
Holdrege Area Public Library

HELP FOR SOMEONE WHO STRUGGLES WITH PRINT by David Oertli



You probably know this woman. She has been an avid reader and even has a long list of books she planned on reading once she retired. She would love to stay active in book discussion groups. But arthritis in her hands has made it difficult for her to hold a book and turn its pages.

Or you might know this gentleman. After a long career as a salesman, he has been looking forward to leisure time when, as a history buff, he could explore books about the settlement of the American West. But macular degeneration has affected his ability to read.

Unforeseen events in life, such as visual impairment, stroke, or tremor, can interfere with how someone reads. But even if someone now has difficulty using regular print, they can continue their love of reading.

The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service is free for any Nebraskan

- Who struggles to see regular-sized print because of visual impairment;
- Who struggles to hold a book or turn its pages;
- Who is unable to read or handle books due to accident, illness, surgery, tremor, or medication, even if the condition is temporary;
- Who has a reading disability such as dyslexia.

The Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service, working with the Library of Congress, offers a wide collection of audio books that includes bestsellers, short stories, westerns, biographies, history, mysteries, and romances, as well as audio magazines. This national collection is supplemented by books and magazines about Nebraska or the Great Plains, recorded in the Nebraska Library Commission's own studios.

A digital player is loaned to each borrower. Designed for ease of use and excellent sound quality, it has large buttons and can accommodate headphones for private listening. All materials are mailed directly to borrowers and returned postage-free. As an additional option, audio books and magazines can be accessed directly from a password-protected website hosted by the Library of Congress.

An individual application form for free talking book service can be printed from <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/TBBS/applyforservice.aspx>; or will be mailed upon request. If the individual qualifies because of visual or physical disability, the front of the application can be certified by an eye care or other medical professional, rehab counselor, social worker, or librarian. If the person qualifies because of a reading disability, such as dyslexia, their application needs to be signed by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy.

For additional information, please contact 1-800-742-7691, or nlc.talkingbook@nebraska.gov.

Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting
November 1, 2013 10:00 am
North Platte Public Library
120 W. 4th
(Abridged— See RVLS website for unabridged minutes)

PRESENT: Dixie Codner, Jody Crocker, Jane Hilton, Pat Hughes, Tim Johnson, Robyn Johnston, Mo Khamouna, Vicki Perrie, Sky Seery, Dana Wade

ABSENT: Beth Falla, Annette Eisenhart,

ALSO PRESENT: Denise Harders (Systems Administrator), Richard Miller (NLC Rep), Steve Batty (NLC Commissioner)

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mo called the meeting to order on 11.1.11 at 10:09am followed by introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (9.6.13) Dana Wade moved to accept minutes as written, Jane Hilton seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT: 45% of the car budget has been used – with a change in insurance and payment of that insurance, there will be a refund. Take out the insurance, 26% has been used. Equipment will be down, due to changes in printing for the newsletter. Insurance (Worker's Comp) has been lowered as well. Professional Ed is slightly over, it's done. Utilities – Windstream will be refunding money soon. We will also get money from Internet Nebraska. Pat Hughes moved to accept the financial reports, Dixie Codner seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you from Kerri Anderson (book), Beth and Lisa (ARSL Conference), Sky Seery (ARSL), Teena Hansen, President of ARSL (ARSL), Mo Khamouna (NLA).

ADMINISTRATIONS REPORT: Hildreth remodel, McCook update, carpet Thanksgiving weekend. Culbertson fundraiser netted nearly 10,000. WOW! New modem was installed, thanks for the patience during the installation and it works great! Denise is moved to her new house and is surrounding by boxes!

ELECTION of OFFICERS:

Dana nominated Jody Crocker. Sky nominated Vicki Perrie. **President elected, Jody Crocker.**

Nominations for Vice-President, Vicki Perrie by Jane Hilton. Pat, moved nominations ceased. All were in favor of this. **Vicki Perrie was elected as Vice-President.**

Secretary nominations, Sky Seery. Jane Hilton moved nominations ceased. Dana Wade seconded. **Sky Seery was elected Secretary.**

OLD BUSINESS:

ARSL Conference: Conference was sold out. It was the biggest ARSL to date. Overall, it was a success.

NLA/NSLA Conference: NLA/NSLA Conference review – NETA was held the week before. Maybe talk could happen between the two to collaborate. Kay did not attend this year due to budget constraints. System directors held Customer Service pre-conference.

RVLS Technology Plan: Committee to review and need to make new goals.

Regional Systems Reorganization: Task force is working, Denise attended on 10.2.13. In Richard Miller's report he stated "Regional Library System Configuration Task Force begins its work, 9 members will meet again Nov 7. Lots of frank discussion will happen. Will talk about it in his report.

2013 Audit/Financial Reports: Letter received on 8.22.13 stating a compilation review is different from audit. It's up to RVLS to make sure everything is okay. The board was given a copy of the letter. This compilation is enough to satisfy the report. First quarter money was deposited before July 1, it's listed as temporarily restricted until that year. The bus for ALA threw the report for a loop, but all is well in the end. July and August had items that were paid for in June. (From Richard, Rod understands, it's all good).

NEW BUSINESS:

Scholarship Policy: Last reviewed in 2012, there hasn't been a year where the scholarship budget was completely used. The amount had been cut to 1,200. \$800 had been awarded when a request of 8 came from a library. The policy states that priority goes to an individual or institution that has not been awarded a scholarship in the last two years. The Committee is looking at putting a limit on how many from institution. There was talk of setting a date for scholarship requests for events, a number of applying per institution. Committee will meet and bring a new policy to the board next meeting.

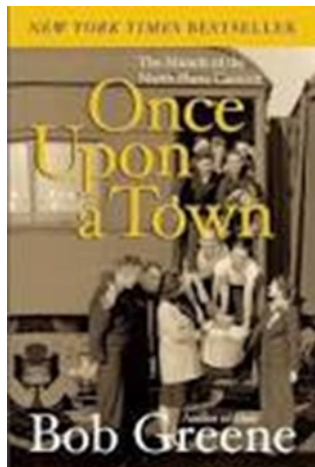
Summer Reading Workshop: Holdrege has an elevator so Monday, March 17th is the date! Wear your green! Food will not be an issue – heh.

Annual Meeting Location: June 6th, looking for a western location. *Cough* **McCook** *Cough* Ideas were thrown around, we all will put our thinking caps on.

Bulk Loan Report: Contracts will renew July 1, considering adding audio books. Board was very receptive of this idea and would be up to the lending library. There was additional talk of redistributing the funds on a percentage basis for lending libraries. The meeting adjourned at 12:30.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: January 3, 2014 via teleconference.

2014 One Book One Nebraska Announced



Once Upon a Town by Bob Greene is Nebraska's reading choice for the **2014 One Book One Nebraska** statewide reading program. In this nonfiction story, bestselling author and award-winning journalist Bob Greene goes out in search of "the best America there ever was," and finds it in a small Nebraska town few people pass through today—a town where Greene discovers the echoes of a love story between a country and its sons. During World War II, American soldiers from every city and walk of life rolled through North Platte, NE, on troop trains en route to their ultimate destinations in Europe and the Pacific. This small town, wanting to offer the servicemen warmth and support, transformed its modest railroad depot into the North Platte Canteen. Every day of the year, every day of the war, the Canteen—staffed and funded entirely by local volunteers—was open from five a.m. until the last troop train of the day pulled away after midnight. *Once Upon a Town* tells the story of how this

plains community of only 12,000 people provided welcoming words, friendship, and baskets of food and treats to more than six million GIs by the time the war ended.

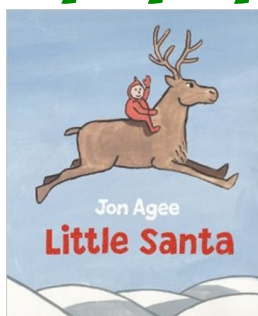
The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, is entering its tenth year. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected this book from a list of 71 titles nominated by 141 Nebraskans from across the state. The Nebraska Center for the Book board announced the choice for the 2014 One Book One Nebraska at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 26 in Lincoln.

Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2014 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

A Gift for Someone Special

Have you ever wondered what Santa was like as a child?

Award-winning author/illustrator Jon Agee answers that question in this playful Christmas picture book, which is a perfect gift for your favorite preschooler. This book was recommended on the recent **BookPage** gift list and I think it is great, too!



Free Resources for Teachers and Librarians

Publishers are offering more and more resources for teachers and librarians on their websites. Visit Candlewick Press at www.candlewick.com/ and you will find nearly a dozen downloadable story time kits for Candlewick titles, such as *Interrupting Chicken*, by David Ezra Stein, and the *Gingerbread Pirates*, by Kristin Kladstrup. Go to the website and click on **Resources** to find discussion guides, teachers' guides, lots of reproducibles, and much more.

"Freebies, Doodads, & Helpful Hints."
Library Sparks, December 2013, pages 4-5.



Winter Workshop

Monday, January 6, 2014 9 am—3:45 pm
UNK Calvin T. Ryan Library, Lower Level
5 CE Units



Adult Services Track

9:00-10:15

Libraries and the Affordable Care Act: Library staff across Nebraska are accustomed to helping customers figure out how to use computers and other resources to access government information, but it's always challenging to get everyone up and ready for something new. Materials and training are available to prepare librarians for helping the library customers who need assistance enrolling in the Health Insurance options made available by the Affordable Care Act. In this session, Mary Sauers, Government Documents Librarian at the Nebraska Library Commission, will present Affordable Care Act resources and information updates for Nebraska librarians.

10:30-11:45

Beyond Book Sales: Is your Friends Group looking for a different way to raise money? Denise Harders will present information about successful events hosted by libraries in the Republican Valley Library System (and a few more ideas for you to try).

1:00-2:15

Notable Books: Get to know the 25 books on the 2013 list of ALA Notable Books for Adults Expect a mix of information, evaluation and personal opinion! Presented by Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries.

2:30-3:45

Library Ethics: Denise Harders and Sharon Osenga will lead a discussion of various case studies focusing on library ethics.

Youth Services Track

9:00-10:15

Book Reviews, Book Talks and Book Lists: Don't know the difference between these three? Sharon Osenga will discuss the elements of each. Participants are asked to bring a book to work with and a book review that they have found helpful.

10:30-11:45

Keeping it Real: The current state of picture book biographies and nonfiction collections. There has been a recent shift in picture book biographies and how to select nonfiction. But what is at the heart of the change? In this session we will define nonfiction, discuss elements and structure of picture book biographies, and identify a criteria for selecting nonfiction, which is sure to enhance any collection and keep it circulating. Presented by Ann Matzke, Wilson Public Library, Cozad.

1:00-2:15

Passive Programming for Teens: Passive programs are a great way to engage young patrons who hang out at your library. Attendees will receive blueprints for implementing self-directed activities. Install a free QR code reader on your smart phone or tablet to get the most out of the hands-on portion of this session. Presented by Rachelle McPhillips, Columbus Public Library.

2:30-3:45

Hot Young Adult Titles: Hear reviews of recent teen titles from Jake Rundle, Hastings Public Library.

REGISTRATION FORM - Registration Deadline—January 3, 2014

Name: _____

Library: _____ e-mail: _____

Send a copy of this form with \$15/per person registration fee to:

Meridian Library System, 816 East 25th Street, Suite 7 Kearney NE 68847

Note: In case of inclement weather, contact the system office to see if the workshop has been rescheduled.

RVLS NEWS

Bob Nedderman
 Director of Perkins
 Library, Hastings
 College was named the
 Nebraska Library
 Association New
 Members Round Table's
**2013 Mentor of the
 Year.** The award
 recognizes an individual
 who has aided significant-
 ly in the professional
 development of
 librarians, media specialists, or library staff, and
 by example, has influenced their careers.
 NMRT, along with Houchen Bindery, presented
 the award to Bob at the NLA Conference in
 Kearney on Friday, October 11.



Storyline Online

This website, <http://www.storylineonline.net/>, is a free resource for librarians and teachers. It includes picture books by Kevin Henkes, Patricia Polacco, Gene Zion, and Mem Fox (among others) that are read by actors. Children can even see the pictures while listening to the story. At the bottom of the webpage, there is a link to activity guides for the books that have writing prompts and homework suggestions.



Website recommended by Sue Yant, School Librarian,
 C. L. Jones Middle School, Minden.

More Information, More Often

The RVLS Board has approved a plan to provide System Members with six *ValleyTalk* newsletters per year.

In the past we published four newsletters in print format. In order to provide better service, we are going to alternate between print and online newsletters.

Three will be in print and three will be posted to the RVLS website and also distributed through the RVLS email list. To make sure you don't miss out on vital information, sign up for the RVLS email list on the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage.

The Internet is Important to Everyone... But Some People are Getting Left Behind

Who is not using the Internet?

Seniors - 59%
 Lower Income - 38%
 Less educated - 57%
 Disabled - 46%



Here's why.

36% cannot afford Internet service.
 19% don't think the Internet is important in their life.
 22% don't know how to use a computer.

Statistics provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2011.

Ellison

The Ellison cutting machine is available for the month of May, and any month after June, in 2014. Please contact the RVLS Office, if you would like to schedule it for your library.

Mark Your Calendar



December 2-13	Basic Skills—Library Governance
December 24—25	Christmas Holiday—RVLS Office Closed
January 1	New Year's Day Holiday —RVLS Office Closed
January 3	RVLS Board Meeting, Conference Call
January 6-17	Basic Skills—Library Services to Children & Youth
January 14	Strategic Planning Workshop—Hastings Public Library—1-4:30
January 27—February 7	Basic Skills—Library Technology
February 10—March 7	Basic Skills—Organization of Materials
March 7	RVLS Board Meeting, Elwood Public Library
March 17	Summer Reading Workshop—Holdrege Area Library

Laughter for the Health of It

There was no doubt. The title alone made me want to go to this session at the ARSL conference. Presenter Wendy Street of Pella Public Library in Pella, Iowa had us out in the aisles roaring with laughter. No, she wasn't a comedian or a clown. Wendy was a certified Laughter Leader and she has successfully incorporated laughter into her library programming both at the library and in her community.

The subtitle of her session was *Using Therapeutic Laughter in Library Programming*.

Why?

Laughter has health benefits: it can decrease depression and anxiety; strengthen our immune system and help us recover from illness; it can lower blood pressure; improve breathing; help us heal; and make us feel good by releasing endorphins. It connects us to others – laughter is contagious; shared laughter promotes bonding, unity and solidarity within a group while having fun. Wendy certainly proved that to us as she led us through a series of laughter exercises. Laughter has benefits whether it is natural laughter from humor or it is self induced through laughter exercises. We learned the Hawaiian laugh- Aloha ha ha, a He Ha Ho exercise, lion and monkey laughs, and many more.

So, how does laughter tie into library programming?

Wellness is a popular topic and with Laughter Yoga and laughter clubs popular world-wide, a laughter club program may bring new people into the library and it works for all ages. It is excellent outreach. Wendy has a monthly laughter club at an assisted living facility. It's fun!

While Wendy paid for her training, she said being certified isn't necessary. You can Google laughter exercises, therapeutic laughter or laughter yoga to get ideas. You can use props such as bubbles, kazoo's or balloons or none at all. Wendy said you can have different laugh exercises listed on cards and use them randomly.

I left the session pumped with endorphins and a smile on my face!

Terri Johnson, North Platte Public Library

Republican Valley Library System
2727 West 2nd Street St. # 233
Hastings, NE 68901-4684



Serving Counties:

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Chase
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Furnas
Gosper
Harlan
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Hitchcock
Kearney
Lincoln
Logan
McPherson
Nuckolls
Perkins
Phelps
Red Willow
Webster

Libraries are fun, educational, and
the biggest bargain on the face of
the earth. ~*Madeline Albright*